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Fall 9-1-2018

GEO 542.01: Food-Energy-Water Seminar

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Wade, Alisa A., "GEO 542.01: Food-Energy-Water Seminar" (2018). *Syllabi*. 8161.
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Introduction to Science Communication

Course Syllabus

Fall 2018 – 1 credit

ST: Food-Energy-Water Seminar

GEO 542 (CRN# 75308); NRSM 542 (CRN# 75309)

Fridays 9:00-9:50(ish) with field trips

CHCB 333

Instructor Info

Alisa A. Wade, Ph.D.

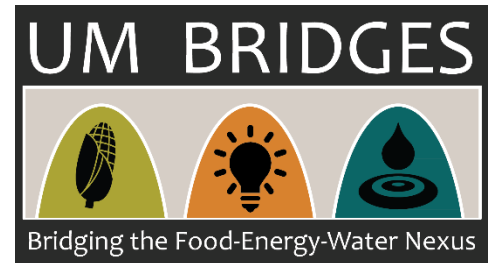
Research and Affiliate Faculty

Department of Geosciences

Clapp Building (CHCB) #355

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Office Hours by appointment



Course Description

This course is offered through the UM BRIDGES training program, which trains future leaders from diverse backgrounds to advance societally-relevant science toward more sustainable food-energy-water systems (umt.edu/bridges). This seminar is designed to introduce you to core concepts in Science Communication and provide grounding of those concepts through exploration of nexus issues in the field, whereby you will also have opportunities to communicate with diverse stakeholders concerning nexus issues. The course is offered in collaboration with the UM School of Journalism, and many in-class sessions will be led by faculty from Journalism, particularly, Nadia White, Associate Professor. This course will be followed by a second seminar in your second year of the traineeship.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes

1. Understand why science communication is important and learn the basics of good science communication;
2. Apply science communication skills through brief reports on nexus issues, integrating across food-energy-water systems, disciplinary, and stakeholder silos.

Course Assessment

Course grading is credit/no-credit. In order to gain credit, you must attend all sessions and field trips. You may miss a maximum of one session and one field trip with prior approval. Under this scenario, you must propose an alternative method for completing the session/field trip or a relevant activity.

Course Logistics and Schedule

This seminar meets on the following Fridays for the following times:

Friday August 31, 9-9:45am – The what and why of science communications

Friday September 7, 9-9:45am – Primer on social media to support your message

Friday September 14, 9am-1pm - Field trip 1: assignment*

Friday September 21, 9-9:45am – Know your audience

Friday September 28, 9-9:45am – Framing your story

Friday October 26, 9am-1pm - Field trip 2: assignment*

Friday November 2, 9-9:45am – How to communicate so people listen

November 16, 9am-1pm - Field trip 3: assignment*

***Assignments** will be detailed in an email 1 week prior to the field trip and will be due within one week following the field trip.

Friday December 1, at Noon, during the PEW pizza lunch with both cohorts, we will discuss: What worked? What didn't? What do you think about science communications? (PEW, as always, will be optional)

Respect, Inclusiveness and Diversity of Thoughts, Ideas and People

All students are entitled to and deserve respect, courtesy and tolerance, regardless of their race, ethnicity, background, religious affiliation, gender, sexual preference, disability or any other perceived difference. Likewise, faculty, staff, guest speakers, community members, and fellow students deserve the same treatment from other students. I will make every effort to promote and create a safe space for diverse thoughts, regardless of the form of communication. I ask that you do the same. We will strive towards an engaging, respectful and open forum in which numerous opinions related to the course material can be discussed and explored.

Equal Access

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors and [Disability Services for Students](#) (DSS). If you have a disability that adversely affects your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or by calling 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Student Conduct

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Course Withdrawal Deadlines

Important Dates Restricting Opportunities to Drop a Course are listed at <https://www.umt.edu/registrar/calendar.php>. In general, you may drop any course up to the 15th instructional day and receive a refund. Beginning the 16th instructional day, a class drop form, with the instructor's signature is required. You will also need to pay a \$10 fee, will not receive a refund, and you will receive a "W" on your transcript. On the 46th day of instruction and thereafter, students may only drop a class under very limited and unusual circumstances. Not doing well in the class, deciding you are concerned about how the class grade might affect your GPA, deciding you did not want to take the class after all, and similar reasons are not among those limited and unusual circumstances. If you want to drop the class for these sorts of reasons, make sure you do so by the end of the 45th instructional day of the semester. On the 46th day of instruction and thereafter, requests to drop must be signed by the instructor, advisor, and Associate Dean (in that order) so if you pursue this request, leave sufficient time to schedule meetings with each of these individuals (generally this will take at least 3-5 working days). A \$10 fee applies if approved. Instructor must indicate whether the individual is Passing or Failing the class at the time of request.